

THE

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SHEKEL

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HIGHLIGHTS

Israel's Newest Paper Money

A School of Dentistry Medal

A Russian Lottery for Jews

The Bombardment of Akko: 1840

An Italian Medal to Italians

Coin Forgeries In Israel

Israel's Only Medal to its Army

Israel's Stamps Awarded a Medal

Advance News of Issues

Haffner Book Corrections

Club News and Others

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THE SHEKEL is the official publication of the AMERICAN ISRAEL NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION, INC. and will appear quarterly with the purpose of establishing an authoritative source of information and knowledge pertaining to numismatics of Modern and Ancient Israel. *THE SHEKEL* will bring to all numismatists the most current information available with reference to the foregoing.

THE SHEKEL will exist only for the benefit of its readers. To further that purpose, it will coordinate the activities of all with the hope that there will be a meaningful interchange of information, views and ideas through its pages.

THE SHEKEL will strive to be informative, interesting, educational and entertaining. To that end, it will endeavor to obtain articles and treatises from leading authorities in the United States, Israel and from other countries.

Finally, *THE SHEKEL* will be of interest not only to advanced collectors and numismatists but also to those just starting out on that delightful path leading to greater understanding and knowledge of Israeli numismatics.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



This year has begun with numerous new expressions of numismatic success . . . for American collectors, many of whom are new to collecting Israel's coinage or the numismatics of Judaica; and for Israel, since new issues are received with *even greater enthusiasm* by

the American subscribers to the Government of Israel offerings.

Early in January, it was already clear, for example, that the LET MY PEOPLE GO coin would set new records as BU sales soared past the 40,000 figure, only weeks after the start of the campaign to reach the American public with its dramatic message. The final figure for the BU? Isn't 75,000 and more clearly a possibility?

There is another measure of our ability to interest the American collector in Israel's numismatics. The first INS group to assist in the formation of a sister group within its own city made

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ISRAEL'S NEWEST PAPER MONEY



ISRAEL'S NEWEST

The Bank of Israel issued on January 13, 1972 two new banknotes of IL 5 and IL 50. These are the third and fourth notes of the third ("gimmel") series of banknotes issued by the Bank, thus completing the series. The IL 10 and IL 100 denominations were issued earlier.

IL 5 BANKNOTE

Size: 150 x 75mm.

Color: Olive green

Watermark: Profile of Prof. Albert Einstein

Obverse: Portrait of Albert Einstein. The

words "Bank of Israel" and "Five Lirot Israeliyot". The figure "5" on the upper left, the lower left, and the lower right corners and the center of the note. Signatures: David Horowitz, Governor of the Bank; Y. Chorin, Chairman of the Advisory Council. The year: 1968-5728. On the background: a security drawing and a stylized drawing of the atom.

Reverse: The words "Bank of Israel" in Hebrew, Arabic and English. The figure "5" on the upper left, lower left and upper right corners. The figure "5" in Arabic on the lower right corner. At the center: a picture of the Nahal Soref atomic reactor. The serial number of the note: on the upper left and lower right areas, in black ink. On the background: a security drawing.



PAPER MONEY

IL 50 BANKNOTE

Size: 170 x 85mm

Color: Reddish-brown with green and brown tones.

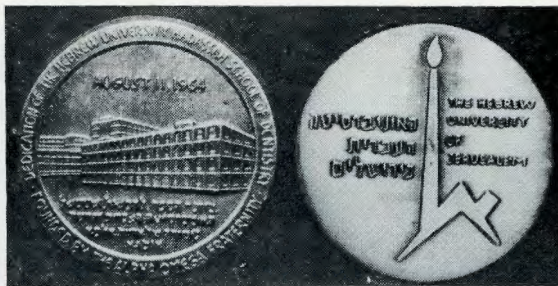
Watermark: Profile of Dr. Chaim Weizmann

Obverse: Portrait of Dr. Chaim Weizmann. The words "Bank of Israel" and "Fifty Lirot Israeliyot". The figure "50" on the upper left and lower right corners and on the center of the note. Signature—David Horowitz, Governor of the Bank; Y. Chorin, Chairman of the Advisory Council. The year—1968-5728. On the background: a security drawing and olive branch.

Reverse: The words "Bank of Israel" in Hebrew, Arabic and English. The figure "50" on the upper right and lower left corners. The figure "50" in Arabic on the lower right corner. At the center: a picture of the Knesset Building. Along the bottom: olive trees. On the upper left corner—the State emblem. The serial number of the note: on the upper right and lower left areas, in black ink. On the background: a security drawing.

The series "gimmel" which now includes these notes is expected to be circulated for the next ten years. The series is the first issues of banknotes to

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THE STORY OF THE HADASSAH HEBREW UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF DENTISTRY ALPHA OMEGA MEDAL

by Dr. Nathan B. Gitlin

A whole sequence of events may have started when Ben Gurion had a toothache in 1944! As a matter of fact, if anyone in the whole country known then as British Palestine, had had a toothache at that time, he would have, upon brief inquiry, learned some very discouraging facts:

1. It was almost impossible to locate a dentist.

2. What few dentists there were averaged over 60 years of age, and were mostly ready for retirement.

3. The dentists who were in practice had very little equipment, and came from such various background that the standards of dental care were not nearly high enough.

It is necessary to go back to 1918 to start at the real beginning, for it was in that year that the foundation stones for the Hebrew University were laid on historic Mt. Scopus, and Palestine was still a battle-front.

"It seems paradoxical" said Dr. Chaim Weizman at that time, "that in a land with so sparse a population; in a land where everything still remains to be done—in a land crying out for such simple things as plough, roads, and harbors, we should begin by creating a center of Spiritual and Intellectual Development."

The Hebrew University was completed and opened in 1925 on a very modest basis, beginning with three research Institutes: Chemistry, Microbiology and Jewish Studies.

From the very outset, this new center of learning and research attracted outstanding scientists and teachers of world renown.

We go back now to the year 1944, because this was the time when it was first brought to the attention of the *Alpha Omega Fraternity* at its National Convention in New York, of the serious need for the creation of a Dental School in Palestine.

Dentists Who Care

At this point it is necessary digress a little to recall the *who* and *what* of the *Alpha Omega Fraternity*.

"Alpha Omega" is a Dental Fraternity which was organized in 1908 by a handful of Jewish dental students at the Baltimore Dental School, who had a strong desire to study together collectively, and to foster a genuine fraternal spirit by assisting one another in their scholastic endeavors. From this humble beginning, with its modest ambition, the *Alpha Omega Fraternity* spread from one dental school to another, adding one chapter after another until gradually nearly every dental school in the United States had a chapter of *Alpha Omega* of its own.

As the benefits of mutual assistance became more and more evident, the students who were *Alpha Omegans* wished to continue their associations after graduation, and thus Alumni Chapters were formed one by one in

many cities of the U. S. As the fraternity grew nationwide, a National Body was formed which tied all of the *Alpha Omega* Chapters together, held a National Convention once each year and proclaimed the following objectives:

1. To promote the Profession of Dentistry.
2. To develop high standards of Scholarship, Leadership, and character.
3. To inculcate a spirit of fellowship among all its members.
4. To sponsor and develop the Cultural and traditional achievements of the Jewish Faith.

As the years went by, and the efforts of each individual chapter grew, so did the entire *Alpha Omega Fraternity* grow and prosper. From a handful of students in 1908, the Fraternity has grown to over 20,000 professional men organized into 45 Undergraduate Chapters, and 104 Alumni Chapters embracing every large city in the United States; and including chapters in Canada, Israel, London, Paris, with other countries soon to join. *Alpha Omegans* are now of Deans of Dental Schools, members of State Boards, and

have entered into the highest concaves of the dental profession.

Since the urge for education has always been innate in the *Alpha Omega Fraternity*, it was only natural that the need for a dental school in Israel was brought to its attention in 1944. But, to build a dental school? It sounded impossible! In the past, only governmental agencies and huge foundations had the power and funds to create and build a dental school! At that time there was no firm government in Palestine, and no one else seemed to care very much whether the dental needs of the people in Palestine were going to be attended to, or not!

Meanwhile the Hebrew University was growing and broadening its scope. By 1948 it had grown to include faculties for science, pre-medicine, agriculture, and a library of nearly 1½-million books.

Alpha Omega Steps In

Following the creation of the State of Israel in 1948, the nation's growing population made greater demands than ever on Israel health services. Finally, in 1950, the leaders of *Alpha Omega* took the initiative and announced a

Interior view of clinic in the old building of Dentistry in Hadassah Hospital building.



Top left: the new Dental Building; to right: the Hadassah Hospital.



Photos by Israel Coin Club member Dr. Bernard Z. Eabinowitch.

bold "Israel Dental Plan." The announcement read thus:

"Alpha Omega has undertaken the project of establishing a modern Dental School at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. A sum of \$300,000.00 will be necessary to complete the erection of the proposed Dental School. Plans are being formulated to raise this amount from Alpha Omegans by pledges to be paid within a 3-year period."

At first, the rank and file members were stunned by the prospect of so huge an undertaking; but soon enthusiasm for the project gained by leaps and bounds. By 1953 the entire sum was collected, and a provisional School of Dentistry was opened in the Hebrew University, and a class of the first 15 Dental Students had started their studies. Although the Provisional School was hampered by a shortage of space and equipment, the school maintained a thorough and up-to-date modern curriculum.

In 1956, announcement of the creation of a new Medical Campus at Ein Karem gave new impetus for plans to construct new Permanent Quarters for the Dental School. Originally the school had been conceived as operating on a single floor with limited space in the Medical School itself. But after it was completed, it soon became evident that the space was too limited and the quarters were cramped. After a thorough study of the needs, the planning committee came to the conclusion that a separate Dental Building of its own would be required to supply the personnel needed to serve Israel's rapidly growing population. Therefore, in 1959, the *Alpha Omega Fraternity* announced the acceptance of new responsibility to build a new Dental Building and to raise \$2,000,000 for construction.

The raising of a sum nearly seven times larger than before again seemed unattainable at first; but again the need was realized and each and every Chapter redoubled its efforts in fund-raising and hard work, with each chapter outdoing the other in novel ideas that would promote the campaign.

In 1960 the corner-stone of the new building was placed in position and building progressed. Finally in the Spring of 1964 a Dedication Tour was announced, and all *Alpha Omegans* were invited to join in for the Official Dedication Ceremony of the New Israel Dental School Building, which was held on August 11, 1964. All those who attended were presented with the *Bronze Presentation Medal* which bears the following inscriptions:

On the Obverse inscribed around the rim in English: *Dedication of the Hebrew University-Hadassah School of Dentistry/Founded by the Alpha Omega Fraternity.* In the center: a pictured view of the new building; Above: August 11, 1964; Below the building inscribed in Hebrew: *"Dedication of the Hebrew-Hadassah School of Dentistry founded by the Alpha Omega Fraternity/1964/*.

On the Reverse inscribed in the center: *The Emblem of the Hebrew University*; to the right of the Emblem in English, *"The Hebrew University of Jerusalem"*; and to the left of the Emblem, the same inscription, but in Hebrew.

Presentation Medal PM-16

Sylvia Haffner, in her new book (*The History of Modern Israel's Money*), has assigned this Presentation Medal the Number: PM-16. The details of the medal are: Date, August 11, 1964; Metal, Bronze; Diameter 33 mm, wt., 30 grams and mintage 1,000.

As a sidelight, it is interesting to note that in the following year (1965), a Presentation Medal was struck for the Hebrew University's 40th Anniversary, and the same emblem which is present on the reverse of the Dental Medal is also inscribed on the Hebrew University Anniversary Medal. Another corollary to note is that the new 10-pound Commemorative Coin, *"Science-Based Industries,"* lists the Hebrew University as one of the institutions of higher learning that the coin itself is commemorating. Thus, the School of Dentistry, as part of the He-

brew University, could be said to be indirectly commemorated by the Science-Based Industries Coin also.

Incidentally, for those who are wondering why the name *Hadassah* is included in the title of the Medal, this was done because the *Hadassah Organization* has helped to support the maintenance of the School and the Salaries of the Dental School Faculty during the entire time that the School has existed.

The *Alpha Omega Fraternity* has devoted 20 years of its Fraternal Life to this huge project. From Genesis-to-Completion of the Israel Dental School into its own building, a total of at least \$2,330,00.00 was raised and this does not even include the many hundreds

and perhaps thousands of small individual gifts given out of the generosity of many unnamed individuals.

So it would be impossible to even begin mentioning the names of the many individuals who spearheaded these efforts and brought this project to completion. This was a most unprecedented accomplishment, for never before in history has such a relatively small group of people taken on the responsibility of what normally in the past belonged to the function of Governmental Agencies. Moreover, this responsibility has become an almost never-ending process, for to this day, *Alpha Omegans* are still involved in many fund-raising activities to provide maintenance and fresh sustenance to the Dental School of Israel.

AINA BOARD TAKES ACTION ON IMITATION COINS

Warnings concerning the distribution of imitation coins of Israel have been made by the board of directors of the American Israel Numismatic Association, Inc., according to Morris Bram, New York, N. Y., AINA president.

Bram writes, "I would like to inform you that the board of directors of the AINA took up the matter of imitation of ancient Hebrew coins that are manufactured and distributed by the Jerusalem Export House Ltd. After a thorough and exhaustive discussion, the board decided to take action in order to make public opinion in Israel aware of the fact that the distribution of these imitations is detrimental to Israel numismatics.

"Consequently, we have decided to send letters to this effect to the relevant Israeli authorities and institutions, including the Department of Antiquities and Museums of the Government, Hebrew University and Israeli press," Bram continues.

"In these letters we are pointing out that although the distribution of the imitation coins may not infringe on any

Israeli law, and incidentally, it is at present likewise not unlawful in the United States, it may nevertheless seriously affect the reputation of Israel numismatics throughout the world, as the imitations are eventually offered to collectors as genuine ancient coins.

"We sincerely hope that this action will bear some influence on the Israel circles involved, though we are somewhat skeptical about the prospects of stopping the manufacture of the imitation coins altogether under the present circumstances," the AINA statement continues.

"May I just add a final remark," Bram writes. "You probably know the manufacture of imitation ancient Hebrew coins is in itself not a new feature in numismatics. This undertaking has been going on for many years, not in Israel but in Europe, and we should therefore view the new Jerusalem product in its correct dimension. Moreover, I assume that a similar problem exists, and has existed in the past, with ancient coins of other countries."

THEME OF 1972 INDEPENDENCE DAY COMMEMORATIVE ANNOUNCED

The IGCAMC has announced the theme of the forthcoming commemorative coin issue which is set for release in April on Israel's 24th Anniversary. The silver coin, like its predecessors, will have an IL 10 face value and it will honor *Israel's Aircraft Industry and Civil Aviation*. The new commemorative will be issued in both BU and proof varieties and it will be minted at the Government Mint in Jerusalem. Planned mintage figures and the details of the design of the coin have not been released as of this date.

MINTAGE FIGURES RELEASED FOR 1971 PIDYON HABEN COIN

On January 1, 1972, the official date of issue of the 1972 Pidyon Haben Coin, the IGCAMC released the final mintage figures of the 1971 BU coin of this annual series: 30,201 for 1971 as compared to 50,833 for 1970 (the first year in which this coin was issued).

Mintage figures for the proof variety have been reduced, benefiting collectors:

1970 — 15,000
1971 — 15,000
1972 — 12,500

As the 1970 issue was completely subscribed, and only very limited quantities of the 1971 are still available, it is fairly safe to predict that the 1972 proof will be sold out quickly.

ANCIENT COINS FOUND

Archeologists have found 15 silver coins dating from Persian occupation in the fourth century B.C. at Dalton in Upper Galilee, Israel, according to press reports.

Find of the coins was confirmed by

Gideon Foerster, deputy director of antiquities.

Obverse of the 20-millimeter coins depicts an owl; a rider on horseback can be seen on the reverse. Excavations are continuing at the site, Foerster notes.

QUARTER SHEKEL RETURNS

A silver quarter shekel coin, the only one of its kind known to have survived, has finally returned to Israel. This coin was used during the Jewish War against the Romans almost 2,000 years ago. In the *Talmud*, reference is made to this coin as one of the "Revolt Coins."

This coin weighs approximately three grams and is 19mm in diameter. On one side is the inscription in ancient Hebrew "Jerusalem is Holy." It also has the familiar three pomegranates, now on the one-lira coins of Israel today. The other side of the coin has a chalice in the middle, with the inscription, "Quarter Shekel."

The coin was in a private collection in America, where it was recognized by Dr. Jacob Meshorer, the Israel Museum numismatic curator. It was recently auctioned in Switzerland for 37,000 Swiss francs (about \$9,250), when it was donated to the Israel Museum, where it is now on display.

STATE MEDALS FOR 1973; TWELVE WILL BE ISSUED

News has arrived from Jerusalem of plans to issue twelve State Medals on the occasion of Israel's 25th Independence Anniversary. The medals will depict, on the *obverse*, the 12 most important events in the State's 25 years of existence; and on the *reverse*, twelve related events in Jewish history. A public committee headed by Prof. Yigael Yadin of Hebrew University has been appointed by the Prime Minister to select the themes and approve the designs.

WHEN YIDDISH WAS A LANGUAGE IN RUSSIA

by Dov Genachowski

One of the miracles of the present day's resurgence of Russian Jewry is the fact that after so many years during which Jewish culture was almost extinct, and the regime did all it could to complete this extinction, it is still alive. One reads about Hebrew "Upanim" (language schools) in Moscow and other cities; one hears about poets and writers in Yiddish; and all of us are proud of Boris Gaponov, one of the greatest translators to enrich the Hebrew literature, and himself born under communism in a far corner of the Soviet Union.

The spirit of a people fighting for reunification with the rest of the nation in its homeland was recently given a numismatic expression in the *Let My People Go* coin. Against this background, the document I want to describe attains a curious quality.

This is a lottery ticket, issued by "All-Union Company for Settling Working Jews in Agriculture in S.S.S.R.", issued in 1930. The ticket I own is marked as part of the third lottery, so there are two preceding it and perhaps others following it. The main text of the face of the ticket is in Russian and Yiddish, though shorter inscriptions are in Gruzian, Uzbek, and in Latin script, probably in order to make sales of the lottery more widespread. The price of the ticket was 50 Kopecks, and the issue comprised of 6,000,000 such tickets, divided into 120 groups of 50,000 tickets each.

All these details are given on the reverse, in Russian only. Prizes ranged from 1 prize of 10,000 Rubles to 12,000 prizes of 5 Rubles each.



3-й ВЫПУСК ЛОТЕРЕИ, УСТАНОВЛЕННЫЙ ЗАКОНОМ СССР от 11 июля 1928 года.
3-й ВЫПУСК ЛОТЕРЕИ, УСТАНОВЛЕННЫЙ ЗАКОНОМ СССР от 11 июля 1928 года.
3-й ВЫПУСК ЛОТЕРЕИ, УСТАНОВЛЕННЫЙ ЗАКОНОМ СССР от 11 июля 1928 года.
3-й ВЫПУСК ЛОТЕРЕИ, УСТАНОВЛЕННЫЙ ЗАКОНОМ СССР от 11 июля 1928 года.

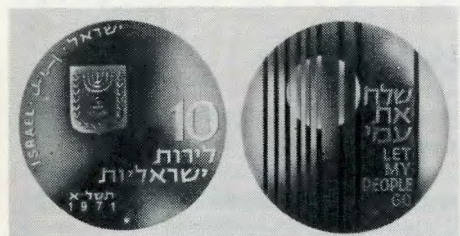
Выпуск	Серия	Номер	Сумма	Вид
1	1	10000	10000	10000
2	1	10000	10000	10000
3	1	10000	10000	10000
4	1	10000	10000	10000
5	1	10000	10000	10000
6	1	10000	10000	10000
7	1	10000	10000	10000
8	1	10000	10000	10000
9	1	10000	10000	10000
10	1	10000	10000	10000
11	1	10000	10000	10000
12	1	10000	10000	10000
13	1	10000	10000	10000
14	1	10000	10000	10000
15	1	10000	10000	10000
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42	1	10000	10000	10000
43	1	10000	10000	10000
44	1	10000	10000	10000
45	1	10000	10000	10000
46	1	10000	10000	10000
47	1	10000	10000	10000
48	1	10000	10000	10000
49	1	10000	10000	10000
50	1	10000	10000	10000

Lottery ticket issued in 1930 is one of 6-million printed to raise money for Birobujan Jewish Settlements.

The reverse is printed in black, the face in black on a background of two tones of red. The central illustration shows a red star in which is a picture of a tractor, surrounded by agricultural motifs, surmounted by the hammer and sickle.

The size of the note is 14.7 x 10.5 cm. There is an interesting discrepancy between the Russian and Yiddish texts. The former refers to SSSR ("СССР" in the Cyrillic alpha-

bet), the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, while the latter speaks about FSRR, Russian Federated Soviet Republic, which is one part of the Union.



Let My People go Coin symbolizes reunification spirit.

In theory at least the monies raised by the lottery were intended to finance Jewish settlements in Birobijan, the unofficial name of what was "The Jewish

Autonomous Region" in the Habarovsk Area in the Russian Far East.

Russian Colonization

Its area is about 22,000 sq. km., and in 1950 its population, most of it non-Jewish, was 195,000. Jewish colonization in Birobijan was begun in 1928, after the failure of similar attempts in European Russia. The whole thing was a failure, and by 1950 was recognized as such, even though now and again one meets the name of Birobijan as a possible "solution" of the Jewish problem in Russia. The real solution, of course, is described not by the lottery ticket, but by the *Let My People Go* coin. If the money really went to the "all-Union Company" for its declared purpose—who today, forty years later, can tell?

ISRAEL NUMISMATIC JOURNAL TELLS OF TETRADRACHM HOARD

Tetradrachms of Alexander came onto the market in Tel Aviv, Israel, in 1965, a few months after they were found by an Arab farmer near Tarsisha, about 12 miles northeast of Acre, according to Arnold Spaer, writing in the *Israel Numismatic Journal*, volume three.

The publication is still available from the Israel Numismatic Society, P. O. Box 750, Jerusalem, Israel, for \$7, postpaid.

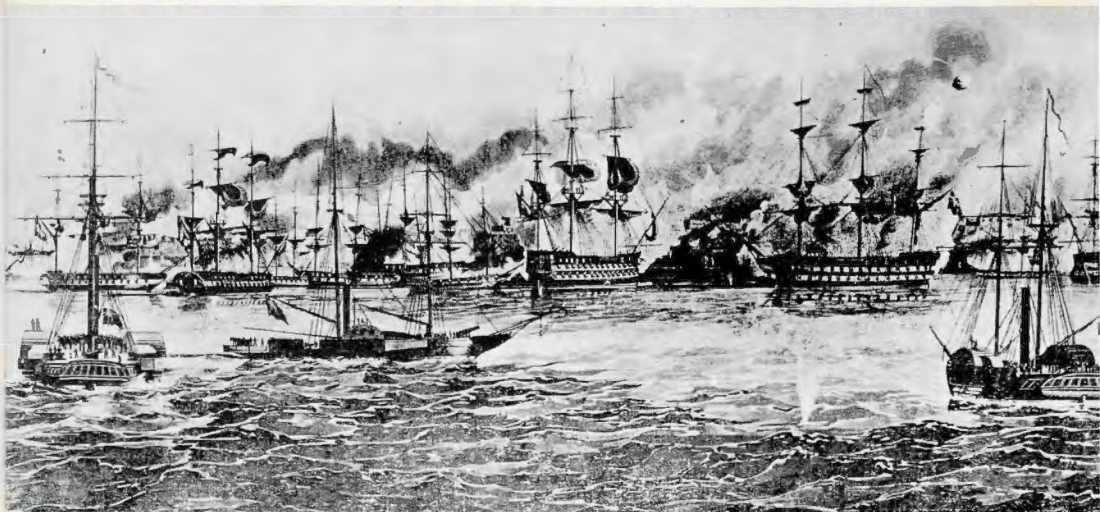
Spaer explains that the 40 tetradrachms found in the hoard disappeared after authorities heard of the find, but showed up some months later in the Tel Aviv coin shop. Numismatists agree that the coins were from a hoard, and since similar coins have not appeared on the coin market which might be traced to the hoard, it is believed that the substance of the group has been accounted for.

Representative Mints and probable dates of striking include Amphipolis, 322 B.C.; Phaselis or Side, 326 B.C.;

Kition, 332 B.C.; Sidon 306 B.C.; Tyre, 306 B.C.; and Ake, 329 B.C.

In the same journal, Otto Morkholm describes "Some Western Seleucid Coins" down to and including issues of Seleucus IV, 187 to 175 B.C. Coins described in the essay were struck in AKKO-Ptolemais, Seleucia Pieria and Damascus. A coin of Damascus described by Morkholm was found in 1956 at Gombab southeast of the Caspian sea, on Parthian territory. The piece is now in the Copenhagen Royal Danish Museum.

In other articles in the journal, Dr. E. W. Klimowsky describes "Roman Imperial 'Virtutes' on Contemporaneous City Coins;" Avraham Negev writes a preliminary note on "The Memphis (Kurnub) Hoard of Roman and Provincial Silver;" Helen W. Mitchell and Shalom Levy describe "A Hoard of Gold Dinars from Ramlah;" and Dr. Yaacov Meshorer writes about "An Enigmatic Arab-Byzantine Coin." (Reprint from *Coin World*.)



Ships of the English and Austrians attack the Egyptian occupiers of Akko.

THE BOMBARDMENT OF AKKO [ACRE] OF 1840

by Elimelech Semmelmann

Assisted by Ariel Berman



The Turkish Sultan awarded this medal to honor the Allies following the victory.

As a result of the weakening of the Central Ottoman government, Egypt under the leadership of Viceroy Muhamed Ali and with the assistance of France was able to free herself from Ottoman Rule. In October, 1831, Ibrahim Pasha occupied Syria and Palestine and annexed them to Egypt. However, this new regime failed to win the support of the inhabitants of Palestine and Syria.

Envoys of the four great powers: Great Britain, Prussia, Austria, and Russia signed a treaty on July 15,

1840. This document supported the necessity to keep the Ottoman Empire intact, and ordered Muhamed Ali to retreat from the area which he had annexed to Egypt. The failure to meet this demand caused the great powers to then evict him—by force. British and Austrian ships blocked the coast of the enemy and shelled the coastal cities. The four powers supplied the Syrian Mountain Army with weapons while British officers helped the Turkish Army for an allied struggle against the Egyptian Army.

By the 25th of September, 1840, most of the coastal cities had been attacked. The only city to escape fire was Akko. She was the strongest and best fortified city, armed with 150 cannons and heavy mortars in fortified positions. 6,000 soldiers were stationed there under the command of Muhamed Bey. Akko was further aided by the Turkish fear that the Egyptian army would be supplemented by the French fleet.

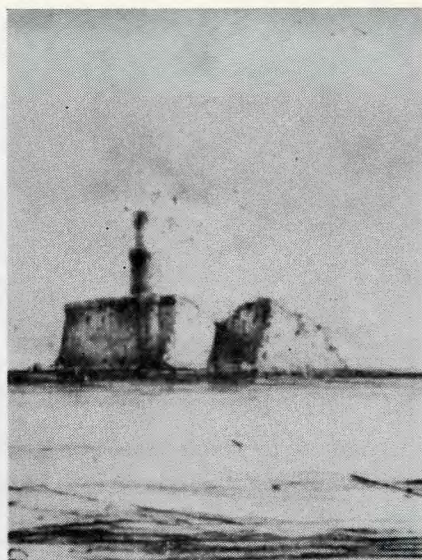
Admiral Stopford, Chief Commander of the British Naval Forces of the area was ordered to open fire on the city at the end of October. At first, the Admiral was hesitant, but he was encouraged by his subordinates. By the final week of October, reconnaissance actions were effected by Captains Boxer and Codrington in the sea area of Akko.

Stopford's forces were modest. They included: the flagship, *Princess Charlotte*, built in 1825. On modern French lines, the *Powerful* and the *Thunderer*, each bearing 84 guns were built in 1826 and 1831. The remaining vessels of the fleet were older and smaller. The *Bellerophon* had 80 guns; *Revenge* had 78 guns; *Benbow* and *Edinburgh* had 72 guns each. Smaller frigates and sloops carried 36 guns each. The Austrians added three additional armed vessels.

The Allies Attack

The Turkish admiral ordered Baldwin Wake Walker of the British Royal Navy to raise the ship's flag, preparing to launch the assault. He then sent a warning to Muhamed Bey which was rejected. On November 3, the ships advanced towards Akko, crossing the shoal and arriving at the city from a northern approach. After noon, Captain Houston Stewart positioned his ship, the *Benbow*, at the south of the city.

A fortress of the city opened fire at two o'clock on the *Benbow*, leading seven other vessels prepared for action. Four ships to the west of the city also assumed their fighting positions. The heavily gunned ships cruised before the city, firing their large guns against the



The city's main powder magazine is hit.

enemy on the shore. By 2:30 p. m. the battle was raging furiously.

The ships were victorious in hitting the coast guns, greatly aided by the smoke curtain of the ship guns which served to camouflage the vessels. In a great explosion, a shell from the *Benbow* hit the city's main magazine and destroyed two regiments and the houses nearby. The ships concentrated fire on the remaining coast gun positions.

By the end of the day, Admiral Stopford ordered a cease-fire. Preparations were made for a continuation of the battle at daylight. At night, the allied forces received word that the garrison was leaving the city, whereupon, a group of soldiers entered the city followed by marines representing the British and Austrian forces. At daybreak on November 4, the flags of the allied forces were seen flying over Akko. It was estimated that the forces of the Great Four fired 48,000 shells during the massive bombardment.

Turks Honor Allies

In gratitude to the victors, the Sultan Abed El Medjid presented a special medal. Cast in gold, silver, and copper,

Continued on page 26

Gould's Gelt Guide

by Maurice M. Gould, N.L.G.



A number of years ago I received a gift from my good friend, Matthew J. van der Voort of the Netherlands, an Associate Editor of *The Shekel*. It is a beautiful volume of *Altneuland* (Old-New Land), the novel by Theodor Herzl. This edition was published under the auspices of the Herzl Centenary Committee, Jerusalem. It is replete with beautiful photos and other information which I had previously not seen published, and there are some items of numismatic interest.

Featured on one page are three Dues Cards of Herzl from Jewish institutions in Vienna. At a quick glance, one of them resembles the common German *notgeld* turned out in postwar World War I in Germany. All three pieces have denominations on them: "Funf gulden" (5); "Funfzig gulden" (50); "Zehn kronen" (10). Items such as these certainly would be an addition to any collection of exnumia, but of course Herzl's own pieces are museum material.

There is a sprinkling of coin photos, ancient and modern, which can be enjoyed by all numismatists and one photo of a Yemenite girl in festive dress features a headdress covered with gold coins.

I was pleased to see numismatics receive such interesting coverage in this wonderful volume.

P-N-C (Philatelic-Numismatic Combination) collectors are attracted to the numismatic and philatelic material of Israel. A number of the stamps depict ancient coins and these appeal to P-N-C collectors. Then, the philatelic-numismatic combination covers, such as the *Certified Coin Covers* issued by the 99 Company of San Clemente, California, have become popular and because of the large number of col-

lectors interested in the Israeli issues, the company intends to produce both the commemorative and trade coins as they are released.

Other producers of P-N-C material have also released Israeli covers, including the use of medals of Levi Eshkol.

A P-N-C cover incorporates a coin or medal, with an appropriate stamp, postmarked on the day the coin or medal is released. Thus, both hobbies are wed and combined into one new and interesting cover, with significant date. This phase of numismatics is growing rapidly in popularity.

I have it from the grapevine that another P-N-C item to be released soon will be some of the stamps of Israel struck in silver and bronze. These should appeal to even more collectors, as "silver" is a magic word in collecting today. When produced for other countries in the past, they have been well received and the demand for them has precipitated more production.

The first Israel P-N-C ever produced were dated February 20, 1968. Six covers were postmarked and the coins were taken from specimen sets. The cover design features the Star of David in a panel area and the Israel Government cooperated fully in both the philatelic and numismatic divisions.



The covers have distinctive postmarks. Only 1,050 of each of the six denominations of coins were produced in the 1, 5, 10, and 25 agorot and the ½ and 1 pound denominations. The following features are incorporated in one cover: a 15 agorot stamp with the illustration of Dr. Chaim Weizman, the world renowned Zionist; the 5 agorot coin, which has three ripe pomegranates. The pomegranates first were used in Jewish shekels between 66-70 A.D. during the War of the Jews against Rome. The ancient usage shows the fruit unripe, while the first modern usage, 1960, has the fruit ripened.

AINA MEMBERS OBTAIN LOW-NUMBERED MINT MARKED SETS

Under a plan to reward AINA members who assist in growth of AINA, and to provide a memorable collector's item to all new members, the Israel Government Coins and Medals Corporation has set aside 1,000 Mint Marked Sets (from #0001 to 1000) for sale at \$3.15 each.

INS clubs have the opportunity to add new vigor to efforts to win new members for AINA with this unique Israel numismatic item, stated Mr. Bram, who developed the project with the cooperation of Rafael Aldor, Director for North America for the IGCAMC.

The special effort was meant to assist club officers to win to AINA those local club members who are new to collecting or to AINA programs and purposes.

NEW BANKNOTES

Continued

bear representations of the great Jewish figures, none of whom is alive.

The two new notes were designed by the late Prof. P. Mazzino of Rome University's Department of Fine Art, one of the most prominent of the small group of men in the world who design banknotes. The engraving work was performed by specialists from England and Holland. The new money was printed in Holland.

Claire and Ben Abelson, of Los Angeles, California, outstanding collectors of Israel coins and collectors of P-N-C, have produced an outstanding educational program on the P-N-C Israeli material, featuring slides and sound effects as well. It is hoped that this program will become available to clubs and hobbyists for use at their meetings. Ben is a member of the Board of Directors of AINA and has consistently promoted Israel numismatics in the L.A. area, being the founding President of the Israel Coin Club of Los Angeles.

AINA SPECIAL FUND CREATED

A special project for 1972 INS clubs and individual members of AINA unaffiliated with an INS society is the *AINA SPECIAL FUND*, a fund-raising activity with the goal of bringing leading Israeli numismatists to the 1973 conclave of world leaders in numismatics which will meet in September at the International Numismatic Congress.

The Board of Directors, in voting to create this special fund raising activity has suggested that individuals and clubs create auctions, donation programs, levies or other means of raising a few hundred dollars per city so that the total might be adequate to bring two or more Israelis to the U. S.

Committee Established

It is hoped that once here, a number of the clubs would benefit by having these experts as speakers. The scholarship which these Israelis would bring to the international congress assures representation for the world of numismatics related to Jewish history and contributions to the world's progress, stated Mr. Bram.

An AINA Committee has been set up with Board members Ed Janis, Mel Wacks and Nat Sobel to work with clubs and to receive funds.

THE FIRST AND ONLY ISRAEL GOVERNMENT MEDAL TO ARMY PERSONNEL

by Sylvia Haffner



Qatamon-Jerusalem Medal of Merit

This "medal of merit" is the first and only medal given by the Government of Israel to army personnel, as it was decided early in 1950 not to issue a medal but a "Merit in Writing" only. The medal was struck in May of 1948, perhaps before the establishment of the State of Israel, and distributed after the establishment of the State on 7. 18. 1949 during the first truce.

The medals were presented to those soldiers who took part in the conquest of Qatamon (a suburb of Jerusalem) which was well fortified for there dwelled the wealthiest Arab families. The medals were accompanied by a letter of commendation by the Ad-

ministration of the Jewish Agency of Eretz-Israel and were distributed by the Commander of "Har'el Battalion", now Brigadier David "Dado" Elazar.

Metal: Silver; Edge: Plain and looped; Diameter: 28mm; Weight: 7.2gm.

OBV: In the center, the Citadel of David with an olive-branch superimposed; around the rim, in Hebrew, "IF I FORGET THEE JERUSALEM LET MY RIGHT HAND BE FORGOTTEN."

REV: In Hebrew in four lines, "FOR THE CONQUEST OF QATAMON-JERUSALEM 22 NEE-SAN 5708"; beneath, in English, "1. 5. 1948."

Courtesy of: Aaron H. Talil.



Designed by Italian-Jewish sculptor Arrigo Minerbi, this medal honored all who aided illegal ships depart from Italy.

The “La Spezia” Medal

by Dr. S. U. Nahon

During the period 1945 and 1946, the “illegal” immigration work in Italy was headed by the late Yehuda Arazi (1907-1959), a very colorful personality and a resourceful and imaginative leader of men, some of whose activities in the service of the *Haganah* became legends even in his lifetime.

Italy was an important embarkation country for the so-called “illegal” immigrants, a country in which the immigration organization, the “Mosad,” could count on the active help of the Jewish community and large segments of the non-Jewish population. In 1946 Yehuda Arazi decided to

strike a medal to be awarded to those persons who aided the “illegal” sailings from Italy to Palestine. It was thus an official medal of an unofficial, underground organization.

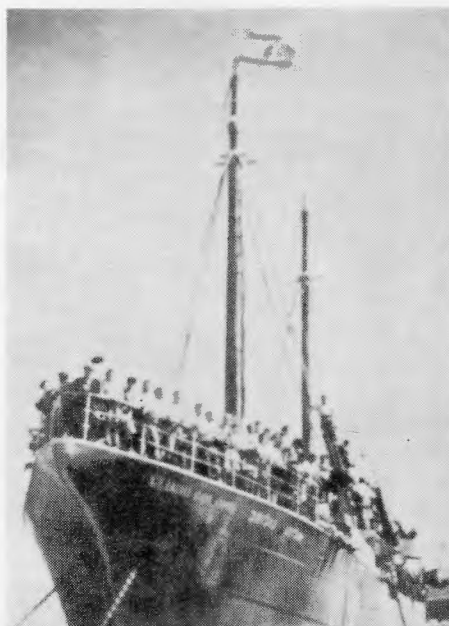
Mr. Arazi asked the famous Italian-Jewish sculptor Arrigo Minerbi to prepare the medal according to Arazi’s own conception of its design. The medal was struck by the firm of Johnsohn in Milan.

The *obverse* of the medal bears the Hebrew verse “Ve’Shavu Banim Li’Gvulam” (“Thy children shall return to their own border”) from Jeremiah 31:17 (The same verse was

much later to appear on the 1959 commemorative coin of independent Israel) above a sailing ship, representing the vessels of the illegal immigration, many of which were not much more than sailing "shells." Below the design is the Hebrew date 5705-5706. The reverse carries the Latin inscription "Judea Restituta," in contrast with the inscription "Judea Capta" of the Roman coins of the First Century (and in this, again, Arazi was ahead of his time—the same inscription was to appear on the first official State Medal of Israel). The inscription is in the form of a bridge, forming the way between the Arch of Titus in Rome and the Citadel (the "Tower of David") in Jerusalem. The dates 1945-1946 appear below in Roman figures.

The medal was struck in silver, round, with a diameter of 35mm, with an oblong loop for the ribbon attached at the top. The medal was issued suspended from a ribbon of the same width, with alternating vertical stripes, three blue and two white stripes.

The title "La Spezia Medal" came about as the first medals were presented on the deck of the "illegal"



The Dov Hos left from port of La Spezia in May 1946.

ship *Dov Hos* (previously the *Fede*) in May 1946 at the Italian port of La Spezia to several Italians, non-Jews, who were actually jailed for their

Continued on page 26



August 1946 hunger strike of 1014 "illegal" Jewish immigrants delayed by Italian police.

HOARDS IN THE GALILLEE FROM 400 BCE AND IN ASHQUELON FROM 1971 AD

by Dov Genachowski

A new signature will appear after present stocks are exhausted on Israel's paper money. Under the Bank of Israel Law, the Bank's notes must carry the signatures of the Governor and of the Chairman of the Advisory Council. Both offices changed incumbents on November 1, 1971. David Horowitz, having completed 17 years as Governor of the Bank, was appointed Chairman of the Advisory Council, replacing Yehuda Chorin. Moshe Sanbar took on the same date office as the Bank's second Governor. It will take sometime for the new combination of signatures to appear on the notes, as present stock must be first exhausted.

For the record: During David Horowitz's governorship, the Chairmen were the late E. S. Hoofien, followed by I. E. Nebenzahl and Y. Chorin. Moshe Sanbar is the Bank's second Governor, while Horowitz is its fourth Chairman.

* * *

A good numismatist is a well-read one, somebody said very wisely. So here are some additional recommendations.

The Menorah, the seven-branched candelabra, appears on many Israel's coins. On most as part of the State's Arms, on others by itself, such as on Israel's first commemorative coin, which personally for me is still the best designed. L. Yarden has written, under the title of *The Tree of Light*, a comprehensive study of the Menorah both as image and as symbol. It is a lavishly illustrated book—230 illustrations in 162 pages, and published in England by the *East and West Library*; it costs £3.75.

Members of Moshav Dalton in Upper Galilee discovered a coin hoard in an ancient building on their land, I read in the Government Antiquities Dept.'s *Archeological News*. The hoard comprised 15 staters of silver minted at Tyre, the Hebrew and Phoenician Tsor, between 400 and 350 BCE. The staters show on one side Athen's owl in Egyptian style, on the other side Melkart, Tyre's God, riding a winged sea-horse. The one other coin in the hoard is an exquisitely kept tetradrachm, again showing the owl on one side and the Goddess Atena on the other.

* * *

I was shown recently a current IL 10 note, carrying the Bialik portrait, with "no problems" at all—except that it was printed, apparently by oversight, not on the usual white paper but on yellow paper, similar to the paper on which the current IL 5 note (which belongs to the earlier series) is printed. Careful check proved its authenticity. I do not know how rare it is—though apparently several were seen by several persons.

* * *

Talking about hoards reminds me of the disappearing hoard. One day the Antiquities Department got a report from the Ashkelon police about the discovery of a hoard of ancient coins. It was reported as a "find" in the press. The Antiquities Department sent Mr. Dov Meron, its district officer, to check the "find." Upon arrival, he found some very unexciting ancient coins, such as almost anyone can find in Ashkelon's sand dunes, and a very



JERUSALEM AND ITS SURROUNDINGS (1593). From the book of the Italian monk, Bernadino Amico, "*Trattato delle piante et imagini de sacri edifizii di Terra Santa*," printed in 1609: one of the first illustrations known which shows the Jewish Quarter of the Old City.

good collection of Turkish coins of the 19th century. Since he could not figure out this combination, he asked the police the exact location of the "find." This turned out to be the "store" of a very modern house-burglar, the "hoard" being the collection of a local numismatist, who came post-haste to claim his coins.

* * *

"Off center" struck coins still turn up now and then, though with much less regularity than in previous times. I. Roessank of Petach Tiqvah reports in *Maariv* of (Nov. 2, 1971) that he has two such coins, both about 50% off center, which he received as change in the regular way. One is 5 Agoroth of 5729, the other 1 Pound of 5731. The paper values each at "IL. 25 to IL. 50," which seems to high to us.

* * *

AINA Israel Tours recently became almost a byword among Israel medal collectors. What happened? No, the

locals are not in haste to join the tour, but they all sure would like to lay their hands on what is so modestly called in the brochure "a numismatic souvenir of the tour." These specially produced "souvenirs" are fast becoming a rare item for collectors. Prices offered still do not cover the cost of the trip; not yet, but are by all means *sky-high*.

* * *

There is a saying in Hebrew: "Easier to bring mountains together than two persons." Well, I owe my good friend Elimelech Semmelman of Haifa a letter for a long time, but apparently New York is nearer for both of us. We met on page 12 of issue 3, Vol. 4 *The Shekel*, talking about the same thing. Even the illustrations include the same medal—though Semmelman's has the ribbon, mine does not. Which means I should get to Haifa rather soon. And by the way, I did not write the item on military script, despite the attribution.

The ALEPH BETH Page

...Dedicated to the Beginner

by Edward Janis



Q. How do I find an authentic Judaea Capta? Mrs. M. C. M. Mt. Gilead, Ohio.

A. This is one time that I regret that I cannot publish your full name and address due to security policy of *The Shekel*. You do not state whether you want the large sestertius or the smaller dupondius. Both coins, the size of a half a dollar and a quarter respectively, are bronze (Aes). The smaller size is rarer. In the most common types, the current price range is around \$80 for fair and approximately \$400 for extremely fine. I suggest that you contact reputable dealers who will guarantee the authenticity of their sale. You won't have far to look. Some of the finest and most reputable dealers of ancient coins are in Ohio.

Q. I have examined a group of the new Let My People Go commemorative coins, in both BU and proof, and noted differences on the raised parts of the reverse design. On some, both the BU and the proofs, the State Emblem of Israel and other legends are frosted. Others are semi-frosted. Some of the BU coins have polished emblems and legends which do not differ from high reflective fields of the coins. Are these differences definite varieties? H. L., N. Y. C.

A. Definitely not. The first strikes of a coin are "frosty" on the raised portions. Some first-strike BU coins have a better appearance than a late-strike proof. Because of the polished planchets, greater striking pressure and polished dies, the ideal coin is an early-strike "frosty" proof.

Q. I received my LMPG BU and uncirculated coins from AINA. One of them must be an error. On the lapel pins, the lettering of the BU is cut into the pin while the one from the proof coin is raised. Which is the error? T. Y., Richmond, Va.

A. Neither. The lapel pins of the BU coins are incused and the lettering on the lapel pins which accompanied the proof coins are raised.

Q. I have two 1971 Pidyon HaBen coins and I notice that if I hold the coin between my thumb and my index finger and turn it on its axis, one of the reverses is upside down and rotated 180 degrees from the other which remains in a readable position. Which of the two varieties are the correct one? Is this a major variety? Where may I obtain an evaluation as to the estimated value and authenticity? Miss I. C. San Francisco, Calif.

A...You have a major find. The coins of Israel are struck "medal" style rather than "coin" style. This means that if you turn a coin on its axis as you describe, the reverse will be readable without turning the coin in any direction. To simplify, if you put a dot on the lowest part of the obverse and reverse, these dots would be obliterated if you drilled through the coin with a fine drill. The classic Israeli mint error is the 1963 I Agora with the inverted reverse (Haffner A-104a).

All United States coins are struck "coin style. If you hold and turn a U. S. coin as you described, with the obverse in the normal position, the reverse will be upside down. I doubt whether any collectors have examined their 1971 Pidyon HaBen coins to see if they have inverted reverses. Yours is the first that I have heard about. Because a die is fixed in a bed and collar for a run, I believe that more reverse "inverted dies" will come to light. The coin is worth whatever a willing buyer will offer. As more appear—and there will be more—the price will stabilize. An inverted reverse in the 1971 Pidyon HaBen is a definite major variety.

THE COINS ONE CAN DRAW WITH

by Gaby Baron

Currency forgeries are rare in Israel. Not many were made, and those that were were so amateurish that they misled the receivers for very short periods. Most of the attempts were in banknotes, which were drawn by hand or photographed. But in the many years following the Six Days War a new type of forgery came to light: of one-pound coins.

Lately the Bank of Israel gets, every so often, one-pound coins rather different in looks from the originals. These are coins which persons unknown apparently cast in gypsum coins. These are easily distinguished, as they are *cast* and not minted, and because of the different alloy from which they are made.

Tests by the police laboratories proved that these "coins" are made of an alloy of lead, tin and antimony. This alloy is much darker in color than that of the legal coins, and the casting is very rough. The details are not sharp, as the "coin" is not minted. Large casting marks are filed away by hand, leaving marks on the surface. The edge milling was done by some sharp instrument, is very inexact and not parallel.

A Wall Decoration

The head of the criminal identification department of the police headquarters, Captain Kaplan, points out that until recently 35 forged one-pound coins were discovered throughout Israel. These are of various dates, which proves their "amateur" origin.

Most of these coins were found in the Gaza Strip and in the Northern Negev. It is difficult to detect their origin, as they change hands so rapidly. In some cases the "lead pounds"

were found by individuals, rather than by Bank tellers, but the investigation of these cases did not turn up any evidence.

The investigators were astonished to find two such coins nailed to the wall of a kiosk in El Arish, in the Sinai. It turned out that the owner received them innocently from a stranger, and when he discovered they were forgeries he drove nails through the soft metal into the wall, as a decoration!

The alloy from which these "coins" are cast is typical to various types of roller-bearings, and was used for the purpose of its sheen. Recently forgeries turned up made of a different alloy, with a higher lead content, but as bad as the others. Their lead caused the investigators to daub these "the coins one can draw with."

Payment by Night

These forgeries do not overly concern our financial community. But recently there appeared in Israel a more successful forgery: American Notes in various denominations, whose detection requires a high degree of expertise. Until now these forgeries were discovered in denominations of \$10, \$20, \$50 and \$100.

The most widely circulated of these notes is the \$20. The Israel Police is in close touch with the Interpol, trying to check the source and directions of circulation of the forged dollars. These are sent in large quantities to areas in which the dollar is not legal tender, and relatively unknown. The forgeries are of such "quality" that only someone who usually uses these notes can detect them.

It is believed that many Israelis who hold, illegally, dollar bills in their mattresses, hold, in reality, forged bills, not knowing the difference.

As to Israeli bills, some rough attempts were made to forge them, very unsuccessfully. They were hand-drawn and painted, only roughly resembling the real article. They were used, when at all, for payment to various night-workers—such as taxi-drivers and . . . street walkers. The denomination forged was IL.50. The poor lighting conditions helped the “painters” to circulate their “art”.

High Detection Level

In some cases photographs of Israeli bills, printed in colors similar to the originals, were used. In one case the forger used only one side of the original, producing a “bill” with identical sides. Of course it was easily detected.

The documents laboratories in the Israel Police headquarters has reached a very high level of proficiency in detecting all types of forgeries. The po-

lice, of course, are not satisfied with just discovering and confirming the forgery. They try to find out how it was done and circulated, trying to prevent both production and circulation. Bank notes are protected with various devices, easily enabling the expert to identify forgeries.

Captain Kaplan shares the opinion of the Bank of Israel concerning the forged one-pound coins. He regards these as amateur productions, not easily circulated in Israel. He thinks these are circulated mainly in the Gaza Strip because residents of the occupied territories are not yet familiar with the forms and looks of Israel's currency.

* * *

Translated, with permission, from *Yedioth Aharonoth* Daily, Tel Aviv, 31.1.71. Submitted by Dov Genachowski.



One can easily distinguish the fake coins from the real because they are a little heavier and their shape is irregular because of primitive minting.
(Israel Sun)

ISRAEL STAMPS AWARDED MEDAL IN ITALY

by Shmuel Shalit

Two medals that were awarded to our stamps in Italy have become an expression of friendship and bestowed honor to the designer-artists of the stamps in Israel.

The medals were awarded to us at the Thematical Stamp Exhibition (on Religious Topics). The medals in the name of St. Gabriel were granted for the Moachim Le-Simcha Ta'shal (Happy Holidays, 5730) stamp series. These stamps were designed by Mssrs. Shvadron and Garbo of Tel-Aviv on the topic of the Flood (Deluge) (Noah's ark). Mr. Shlomo Levar, the Consul of Israel in Milan accepted the medals in the name of the "Israel Philatelic Service".

Mr. Levar writes from Italy:

In a splendid hall of the municipality of Verona, I was presented with the International Prize in the name of St. Gabriel, awarded to our country for Philatelic Art of Religious Topics, represented on our "Happy Holidays 5730" stamps.

In this impressive ceremony participated the government officials, civic leaders and religious representatives of the city and the region.

The medal in the name of the President of the Republic of Italy was presented to our representative by the Governor, and an additional medal in the name of the President of the Italian House of Representatives was presented by the Christian-Democratic Parliamentary Delegate.

Greeting telegrams were received from the Prime Minister, the President of the Senate, the Minister for External Affairs and from other leaders including those from the Christian-Democratic Party.



Mr. Levar stated that the event turned into a spontaneous demonstration of friendship to Israel, as it was expressed in the speeches delivered by the Governor, Senator, the Municipal Representatives and the Chairman of the Philatelic Society.

At the conclusion of the testimonial dinner that followed the ceremony, the Italians continued to hear "Praise to Israel" speakers speeches and comments, for her conquest of the Desert and for the printing of beautiful stamps.

It is not the first time that the Israeli stamps have received such publicity here. Several years ago the stamp of the Menorah was selected as the *Most Beautiful Sports Stamp of the World* for that year.

The works of the Israeli graphics designers of the Israeli stamps have won many international honor awards and medals.

Translated from HA'ARETZ newspaper story in Hebrew by N. Sobel

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor:

I was interested in reading Maurice M. Gould's article about his favorite Israel commemorative coin (**Gould's Gelt Guide, Fall 1971, The Shekel**) but somewhat surprised that he still attributes the "famous shekels and half shekels" to Simon Maccabeus at this late date.

This was a widespread misconception some forty or fifty years ago, but for the late 25 years at least, all important scholars have been unanimous in their opinion that the shekel belongs to the period of the Jewish-Roman War 66-70CE (also called the **First Revolt**). This opinion is based on various important finds, particularly the Massada hoard which proved conclusively that these shekels could not have been minted nearly two centuries earlier and survived such a long period in uncirculated condition.

The late Prof. Reifenberg who originally supported the Simon Maccabeus theory changed his mind after the Massada find. Leo Kadman, Dr. Meshorer and Dr. Kindler all adhere to the theory that the shekels belong definitely to the 'First Revolt' period.

For further details, refer to Volume III of Leo Kadman's **Corpus, The Coins of the Jewish War** and to Dr. J. Meshorer's excellent catalogue on **The Coins of the Second Temple Period** which is quickly replacing Dr. Reifenberg's **Book of Ancient Jewish Coins** as the Bible of the Judaica collectors.

In this connection would it not be advisable if coin dealers would adopt the method of showing the M (Meshorer) numbers in their auction catalogs instead of adhering to the R (Reifenberg) numbers which have become somewhat obsolete because of certain inaccuracies.

Sincerely,
Robert G. Sidener, Charter Member AINA and the INS of New York.

Florida.

December 11, 1971

Dear Editor,

You were referred to me by Thomas V. Haney of the **NY Times** in connection with a search for a Jewish medal.

The medal was minted in 1842 by the **Hebrew Benevolent Society of New York** and was presented to its president, Major Mordecai Manuel Noah that same year. The medal was gold. Its obverse side contained the words "Hebrew Benevolent Society April 8, 1822" in a ring around its edge, and the word "Founded" across its diameter. The reverse side had Hebrew words meaning the same thing. Both sides

had floral decorations around the edge, near the rim.

I have already contacted the Jewish Child Care Assn., which is the successor organization to the **Hebrew Benevolent Society**, and the **American Jewish History Society** and neither know anything about it.

Thank you for any information your publication or readers can provide.

Yours truly,
Hyman Bogen
632 Warburton Ave.
Yonkers, N. Y. 10701

KADMAN MUSEUM SHOWS

The revolt of Simon Bar Kochba, fighting persecution by the Romans between 132 and 135 A.D., were dramatized by a display of coins he issued and which were on display at the Kadman Numismatic Museum in Ramat Aviv in late 1971.

Described as the last of a series of autonomous coins struck by the ancient Jews, the inscriptions testify to the intense nationalism of the Jews during the rebellion. "*Year one to the redemption of Israel,*" reads one inscription. The following year came the rallying cry, "*Year two for the freedom of Israel.*"

In the final year one can read on the coins, "*For the Freedom of Jerusalem.*"

On the larger silver coins one can see a sketch of the temple, and the fruits ceremoniously carried during the feast of Succoth, the lulav and ethrog.

On display in the Israel museum in Jerusalem is a quarter shekel silver coin, long a possession of a Washington D.C., collector, and now a possession of the Israel museum, the gift of a generous collector.

The piece is one of the revolt coins, dating from the first year of the Jewish war which began in 66 A.D. and lasted for four years. One side of the coin shows three pomegranates and the Hebrew legend, Yerushalem Kdosha, or Holy Jerusalem. The reverse shows a chalice and the denomination inscribed, quarter shekel.

HAFFNER CORRECTIONS

TURKISH BANKNOTES

The following is an amended listing of the Turkish banknotes used in Palestine. New numbers have been assigned as some listings have been removed and other dates and varieties

added. Other varieties or dates may exist and will be listed when they are verified.

The History of Modern Israel's Money, 1970, pp-182-182a, errata sheet.

STATE NOTES OF THE MINISTRY OF FINANCES

(DETTE PUBLIQUE OTTOMANE)

1-GRUSH - 1 KURUS (40 PARA)

1) 1332-23

2½ GRUSH - ½ KURUS (100 PARA)

2) 1332-23

5 PIASTRES - 5 KURUS

3) 1331-22

4) 1332-6

5) 1332-4

20 PIASTRES - 20 KURUS

6) 1331-22

7) 1332-6

8) 1332-4

¼ POUND - LIVRE-TURQUE

9) 1331-18

10) 1331-22

10a) 1331-22 different signature

½ POUND - LIVRE-TURQUE

11) 1331-18

11a) 1331-18 different signature

12) 1331-22

12a) 1331-22 different signature

13) 1332-6

14) 1332-4

1 POUND - LIVRE-TURQUE

15) 1331-30

16) 1331-18

16a) 1331-18

17) 1331-22

18) 1332-6

18a) 1332-6

19) 1332-6

19a) 1332-6

20) 1332-4

21) 1332-4

WATERMARK

GD-tuning fork

GD-tuning fork

GD-tuning fork

GD-tuning fork

GD-tuning fork

GD-tuning fork

RD-flower

RD-flower

RD-flower

GD-tuning fork

different signature

different signature

different signature

2½ POUNDS - LIVRE-TURQUE

22) 1332-4

23) 1334-28

RD-flower

RD-flower

5 POUNDS - LIVRE-TURQUE

24) 1331-30

24a) 1331-30

25) 1331-18

26) 1332-6

26a) 1332-6

27) 1333-28

28) 1334-28

GD-hook

GD-hook

GD-tuning fork

GD-tuning fork

GD-tuning fork

RD-flower

RD-flower

different signature

different signature

10 POUNDS – LIVRE–TURQUE

29)	1332–6	RD–flower
30)	1332–4	RD–flower

25 POUNDS – LIVRE–TURQUE

31)	1333–28	RD–flower
32)	1334–28	RD–flower

50 POUNDS – LIVRE–TURQUE

33)	1332–6	GD–tuning fork
34)	1332–6	RD–flower

100 POUNDS – LIVRE–TURQUE

35)	1332–4	RD–flower
36)	1333–28	RD–flower
37)	1334–28	RD–flower

500 POUNDS – LIVRE–TURQUE

38)	1332–6	RD–flower
39)	1334–28	RD–flower

1,000 POUNDS – LIVRE–TURQUE

40)	1333–28	RD–flower
41)	1334–28	RD–flower

50,000 POUNDS – LIVRE–TURQUE

42)	1332–6	RD–flower
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BRITISH OCCUPATION OVERPRINTED NOTES**10 SHILLINGS**

43)

1 POUND

44)

ISRAEL and PALESTINE

= coins

= banknotes

= tokens

= medals

= rarities

= Judaica

*our specialty: tokens**want lists requested***ISCOIN**

COIN EXPORT

P.O.B. 16424 Tel Aviv, Israel**LA SPEZIA MEDAL***Continued from page 17*

activities in the cause of Jewish refugees and immigration. They were Aldo Restani, Renzo and Giorgio Bargiacchi, and Messrs. Musso and Maranzano, who thus became perhaps the first holders of a Haganah Medal anywhere.

The port of La Spezia saw, in August 1946, a hunger strike by 1014 Jewish immigrants, who were stopped on their way to Palestine by the Italian police, acting under pressure of the British authorities in Italy.

Eventually, after about one month in the small port, the refugees were allowed to leave for Palestine. Harold Laski, a Jew who was a leader of the British Labour Party, intervened on their behalf, causing the British Government to grant them "immigration certificates" to Palestine. The "La Spezia" medal is thus a memento to some very proud moments in the history of "illegal" immigration to Palestine and to a great man who was its leader.

BOMBARDMENT MEDAL*Continued from page 12*

the medals measured 30 millimeters. The *obverse* displayed Abed Al Medjid in laurel wreath. The *reverse* of the coin showed the fortress of Akko with Turkish Ensigns, six stars and an Arabic inscription: *The Plain of Syria and the Fortress of Akko*. The date: 1256 of Hedjera—1840 A.D.

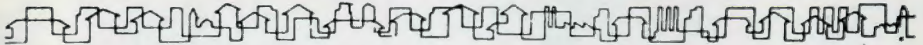
The authors are grateful to the Management of the Maritime Museum in Haifa and to an article by A. W. H. Pearsall of the International Maritime Museum, Greenwich, England.

NEXT ISSUE

The full story of the AINA Fourth Annual Study Tour of Israel and its group of 65 men and women will be featured in the next issue of **The Shekel**, published in mid-June.

Contributions from readers on numismatics are always welcome.

Club News



MARYLAND GROUP REVIEWS "JEWISH NUMISMATICS"

A recent meeting of the INS of Maryland chose as its theme the general subject, "What Comprises Jewish Numismatics?"

The presentation showed that coinage, medals, paper money, local currency and tokens, and a brief review of early medals from mid-European and Scandinavian countries during the Renaissance were discussed. Little known and rarely seen examples of Judaic medallic art were on display.

The Maryland group is planning a Judaic numismatic display as part of the April anniversary of Israel's independence for the lobby of the Jewish Community Center. A coin and medal display was to be set up in local Hoffberger Gallery; the January theme was to be Israel's coins and medals.

INS OF SAN GABRIEL HEARS STAMP COLLECTOR

The world of Israel numismatics as enjoyed by members of the INS of San Gabriel (Calif.) was enriched by the invitation to Murray Svonkin, a member of the group, to show his *stamp* collection. It was a double event for the speaker since he and his wife were also the Host and Hostess for the afternoon activity which was held in the Community Room of the Financial Federation in Alhambra.

A recent issue of the club's newsletter featured an article by Abraham Slopak on *The Kibbutz Money of Israel*.

(Editor's Note: We are requesting permission to reprint this article for the benefit of all AINA members and Shekel readers.)

Among activities planned before winter's end was a *White Elephant Sale* which did NOT have to limit itself to numismatic items for those who wished to donate items to raise funds for the club, reports Esther Bromberg, editor of the club's bulletin.

TEXANS ELECT OFFICERS FOR 1972 PROGRAM YEAR

Texas members of the INS held their elections during the first month of the year from a slate which included:

Harold Z. Nelkin	President
Herbert Oberman	Vice President
Jake Axelrod	Secretary
Ben Feder	Treasurer
Dr. Sam Gold	Sgt. of Arms
Board of Directors include Alfred Selsky, Robert Astrich and Dr. R. P. Nielsen, Jr.	
Board member: Stuart Bamberger.	

The group meets monthly at the community room of the Mercantile Bank in Houston.

WASHINGTON, D.S. INS GROUP OFFERS BID-BOARD

The first meeting of the INS of Washington, D.C. during 1972 featured a "bid-board" made up of materials brought in by members, advises Adolf Bondy, president.

A recent bulletin to club members reviewed the nature of tarnish on Israel's aluminum coins for the lower denominations.

MASSACHUSETTS GROUP HEARS AMERICANA LECTURE

The INS of Massachusetts recently heard a lecture on *Early American Coppers* as a means of showing how other numismatists have made successful specialization efforts.

Officers nominated for 1972 included:

President	Edward Shade
First V. P.	Mrs. Louise C. Buckley
Second V. P.	Marshall Schneider,
	Rosalind Kramer
Treasurer	Louis Green
Recording Secy.	Anne Blume
	Rosalind Kramer
Corresponding Secy.	Sandra Walter
New Issue Manager	Marshall Schneider
Librarian	David Parritz



WINDY CITY NUMISMATISTS. A winter meeting of the INS of Chicago found (left to right) Morris Bram, president of AINA, David Silverman, and (standing) Harry Flower, president of the Chicago group.

INS OF ILLINOIS ELECTS 1972 SLATE

Chicagoans celebrated more than the election of officers for the INS of Illinois for 1972. Members of the group learned in the January bulletin that the wife of one of their members had won the *Pan American Airways Contest*

with a prize of a trip to Tel Aviv for Don and Shirley Oppenheim.

The slate for 1972:

Harry Flower		President
David Silverman	..	Second Vice-President
Dr. Alan Feinberg	..	First Vice-President
Mary Bell		Secretary
Lea Levy		Treasurer

The group has incorporated as a result of the effort of the club's attorney, member Nathan Eglit.

SPEAKER TRAVELS 300 MILES TO MICHIGAN INS MEETING

A resident of Ontario, Canada, Art Leff, is a member of the INS of Michigan which holds its meetings in Detroit. Mr. Leff recently made the 300-mile round trip in order to be the guest speaker for the evening, showing slides of Israel's medals, reports president Syd Bluestone.

Club members Florence Shook and Irving Moskowitz, representing the *Michigan State Numismatic Association* presented guests Y. Avni and R. Aldor of the IGCAM and Morris Bram, president of AINA, with a me-



AUTO COUNTRY NUMISMATISTS. Y. Avni, Director-General of the IGCAM, visiting the U. S. to launch sales of the *Let My People Go* coin visited with members of the INS of Michigan, left to right: Y. Avni, Sydney Bluestone and Art Leff. Seated, left to right: Florence Shook, Morris Bram, AINA president and Rafael Aldor of IGCAM.



BROOKLYN INS FORMED. New York State Assemblyman Stanley Steingut at the podium. At table, left to right: Morris Bram; Assemblyman Leonard Simon; Rabbi Max Feldman of Flatbush Jewish Center; Israeli Consul David Rivlin; Rafael Aldor, IGCAM; and Nat Sobel, first president of the newly formed INS of Brooklyn at the inaugural meeting.

mento welcoming them officially on behalf of the city of Detroit.

Officers of 1971-72 year are:

Syd Bluestone	President
Milton Shapiro	Vice-President
Jack Schwartz	Second Vice-President
Phil Charns	Corresponding Secretary
Henry Gordon	Recording Secretary

JERSEYITES FORM INS

The INS of New Jersey was formed recently with a *Charter Night* activity which included film showings, refreshments and the inauguration of officers in Short Hills, New Jersey, a suburban community just within commuting distance of New York.

A slide talk on numismatics by Howard Fink was among the featured activities.

PITTSBURGH INS HEARS ALDOR SPEAK ON AINA

With talks by leading individuals in the world of Israel's numismatics and such activities as monthly auctions with auctioneer Jeremiah Farley handling the gavel, the INS of Pittsburgh has enjoyed interesting meetings in a community room of the Pittsburgh National Bank, reports corresponding secretary, Jennie Lando.

BROOKLYN HOLDS ISRAEL NIGHT TO LAUNCH INS GROUP

The inaugural meeting of the INS of Brooklyn was a gala *Israel Night* event which brought together interested numismatists from the Brooklyn section of New York City to a community center. Nathan Sobel, a member of the Board of Directors of AINA and the first editor of *The Shekel* was installed as president.

Among guests were government officials including State Assemblymen Stanley Steingut and Leonard Simon; the Israel Consul; Rafael Aldor, representing the IGCAM; and Morris Bram, president of AINA.

Entertainment by a duo from Israel, a film on Israeli numismatics plus exhibits and refreshments made the occasion a noteworthy cultural event in Brooklyn.

LOS ANGELES ELECTS FIRST WOMAN CLUB PRESIDENT

The first woman to be elected to the presidency of an INS group is Claire Abelson, newly elected president of the *Israel Coin Club of Los Angeles*. The club with over 100 members also has the distinction of being the first club of



STEEL CITY NUMISMATISTS GATHER. At a recent gathering of the INS of Pittsburgh, Penna., attending were (seated from left to right): Jennie Lando, Aldona Davis, Belle Broder, Sylvia Ilson, Frieda Epstein and Sarah Freezman. Standing, left to right: Edmund Schenck, Jr., Jeremiah Farley, Leroy Broder, Morris Epstein, Stephen Epstein, Dr. Leslie Reggel, Morris Freezman, Ithamar Lando and Rabbi Ilson.

its kind in the United States. Its membership of over 100 also makes it the largest group of Israel-oriented numismatists. Maurice M. Gould was Installing Officer.

Among distinguished guests on hand to greet the newly elected president were Y. Avni of Israel; Miss Eva Adams, former Mint Director of the U. S.; and C. M. Brown of New Zealand.

Officers for 1972 are:

President	Claire Abelson
1st Vice-Pres.	Jack Waxman
2nd Vice-Pres.	Dr. Sol Taylor
Corresp. Secy.	Sarah Breslow
Recording Secy.	Peggy E. Borgolte
Treasurer	Babe Baker
Board of Governors: Nate Bromberg, Ben Abelson, Jerry Yahalom, Bill Saler, Milton Fishgold, Armando Ojeda, Cliff Roth, Seymour Marks and Evelyn Sadler.	

The installation of officers was at a steak dinner on a Sunday and entertainment included a one-man show by an Israeli comic-accordionist.

Maurice and Jean Gould were presented with a plaque honoring them for "contributing the most to the advancement of Israel Numismatics in 1971" by the club.

MENORAH ON COINS THEME OF OHIO MEETING

Members of the INS of Ohio, meeting in Cleveland in the community room of the Ohio Savings Association, heard Henry Bloser and Ray Nolan present a slide lecture on *The Menorah—Its Usage on Coins Through the Ages*. It was a repeat lecture assignment for the pair who just a year earlier had delighted the club with a presentation on *The Symbols of Israel's Coinage As Found in Both the Old and New Testaments*.

Novel Meeting Talks

In an earlier meeting, a talk by Jack Davidson on his trip to Israel was heard. Jake Hennenberg spoke on how his collection of Judaica began in 1934 or 1935.

A pre-winter meeting heard Sanford Brown speak on *The Only Jewish Pilot to Win the "Blue Max"* (Germany—WWI); and the Story of *The Japanese General Who Saved 20,000 Jews in Manchuria*.

GEORGIANS HEAR ISRAELI OFFICIALS

A meeting of the INS of Georgia, meeting in Atlanta, enjoyed a major evening with guest speakers including Yitzhak Avni of IGCAM; the Hon. Moshe Gilboa, Consul-General of Israel, Atlanta; Morris Bram, president of AINA; the Hon. A. Sharir, Consul for Economic Affairs, Atlanta; and Rafael Aldor of the IGCAM.

The master of ceremonies for the occasion was the president of the Georgia group, Mr. Bennett Herzfeld. Activities included showing of numismatic films, a door prize for INS members only; and refreshments were served.

LONG ISLAND CLUB INSTALLS OFFICERS

The January meeting of the Israel Numismatic Society of Long Island (INSLI) was highlighted by the installation of the new officers for the coming year. The installation featured Mor-

ris Bram, installing officer; Raphael Aldor, the director of the Israel Government Coins and Medals Corporation for North America, gave the keynote address. Mr. Aldor's enthusiastic discussion gave us a little extra insight into the future of our hobby.

The new officers installed were:

<i>Moe Weinschel, director</i>	
<i>Moe Wacks, director</i>	
<i>Morris Bram, director</i>	
<i>Corresponding Secy.</i>	<i>Max Vlotkowsky</i>
<i>Recording Secy.</i>	<i>Manny Rubin</i>
<i>Treasurer</i>	<i>Perry Rosenfeld (also</i>
	<i>Publicity Chairman)</i>
<i>2nd V.P.</i>	<i>Morton Zerder</i>
<i>1st V.P.</i>	<i>Dave Gottlieb</i>
<i>President</i>	<i>Irwin Stoff</i>

The traditional thanks were given to the outgoing officers, headed by Mel Wacks, the past president.

The Long Island club is in the process of incorporating. Meetings are held on the third Thursday of the month at the Syosset Library (right on Exit 43 of the Long Island Expressway) at 8 p. m. Out-of-town visitors are always welcome, reports Emanuel J. Rubin, M.D., Recording Secretary.

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THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

(Cont'd.)

history at the end of 1971 when the INS of Brooklyn was formed. Taking its strength in small part from the existing INS of New York, the new club is drawing its membership from Brooklyn residents, many new to collecting, who would not ever have become members or active in the group which meets in the midtown area of this city.

While neither the well-established INS of New York or the new Brooklyn group is as large as the INS of Los Angeles which is both the oldest and the largest INS in the Nation (with over 110 members in January and surely more by this reading date!), both New York groups see in their decision to share the metropolitan area their further commitment to the growth of Israel-oriented collecting . . . and AINA.

Nearly 100% of the new Brooklyn chapter, with Nat Sobel, a staunch member of the Board of Directors of AINA and the first editor of *The Shekel* as its president, are members of AINA.

To those members of AINA who are NOT members of a local Israel Numismatic Society, the advantages of AINA membership (and the pleasures and education derived from such membership) are obvious. But to too many AINA members who are also members of the INS clubs and who share INS meetings with collectors who are NOT also AINA members . . . AINA doesn't get enough of their energy and enthusiasm. They could help insure that no Israel collector goes without his *Shekel*, his participation in the only national group which organizes the educational material or the expansion of interest in Israel through numismatics and the other programs by which we live.

Is there something you can do to change this? You bet there is. Show your *Shekel* to someone you know is NOT an AINA member—and get him to join. We'll all be better for it. And if we're stronger, that ultimately will help Israel—and in turn, you . . . the Israel numismatics collector.



ISRAEL COIN OF SOVIET JEWRY PRESENTED TO GOVERNOR OF MARYLAND

At a banquet held in his honor by the Jewish National Fund of Maryland the Governor of Maryland, Mr. Marvin Mandel, was presented Israel's commemorative coin dedicated to Soviet Jewry. Mr. Mandel recently visited the Soviet Union as member of a group of State governors. The presentation was made by Mr. Rafael Aldor (left), Director for North America, Israel Government Coins and Medals Corp.

AVI-YONA RECEIVES AWARD FOR WORK IN NUMISMATICS

Noted Israel numismatist Professor Michael Avi-Yona was a recipient on May 30 of an \$840 award for his life work in numismatics, presented by Itzhak Ben-Zvi Institute for Research on the Holy Land and Jewish history.

Beit Ha'am in Jerusalem was the site of the presentation of the award.

Other recipients included Haim Kesheles, for research on Jewish origins in Bulgaria; Dr. Moshe Beer for work on the Babylonian exile; and Dr. Yehoshua Ben-Arieh for his work, "The Rediscovery of the Holy Land in the 19th Century."

Professor Avi-Yona wrote "Abbreviations in Greek Inscriptions (The Near East 200 B.C. - 1100 A.D.)," which appeared in the quarterly of the Department of Antiquities in Palestine, published in Jerusalem in 1940.

1972 PIDYON HABEN COIN



"COIN OF REDEMPTION"

(third in the series)

Issued by the Bank of Israel

First sons born in 1972 will be redeemed by coins minted that same year, a keepsake to be treasured. In addition to its ceremonial use, the Pidyon HaBen coin is intended to become a collector's item issued yearly. Further to enhance its interest and worth as such, the Bank of Israel will introduce, in each annual issue, a slight change in the design of the value side, where the data also appears. The sequence has thus become a series.

Description of the coin

Obverse: The nominal value 10 Israel Lirot. Underneath, the emblem of the State on a shield, and around the rim **Israel** in Hebrew, Arabic and in Latin characters, the year of issue, 1972, and its equivalent in Hebrew lettering.

Reverse: In the centre, a schematic rendering of the accepted motif of the Tables of the Law. Underneath, in three lines, in stylized Hebrew letters, the quotation: "**All the first born of thy sons thou shalt redeem**" (Exodus 34.20). Below, on the rim, in Hebrew, **Pidyon HaBen Coin**.

Details of the coin

Nominal value: IL 10
Metal: Silver 900
Diameter: 37 mm.
Weight: 26 gr.

B.U.

Quantity: to be determined
Cat. No. C/161

Proof

Quantity: 12,500
Cat. No. C/162



1970



1971



1972



JERUSALEM — THE KNESSET

State Medal 1971

An important new medal from the Israel Government Coins and Medals Corporation honors the city of Jerusalem and the Knesset. The medal was designed by Yaakov Zim and was struck in Jerusalem by S. Kretschmer and Sons.

Obverse: The Knesset (parliament) building which crowns one of the lovely western hills of Jerusalem.

Reverse: Stylized panorama of reunited Jerusalem with outstanding landmarks arranged in a free composition.

DETAILS OF THE MEDAL

Metal	Diameter	Weight	Quantity	Cat. No.
Bronze	59 mm	95 gm	20,000	60311
Silver	59 mm	115 gm	7,500	60321
Bronze	45 mm	40 gm	—	60312
Silver	45 mm	48 gm	15,000	60322

